**What’s the Big Deal About Internet Privacy?**

It’s a good idea to check a website’s privacy policy before using the site. Look for the words “Privacy” or “privacy policy” at the bottom of the home page.

Here are some terms you’re likely to find in privacy policy notices. Check off the terms you find on your sites and answer the following questions.

You are going to select 3 websites and review the privacy policies on each one. Fill in the information requested below after looking at each privacy policy.

1. [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) (this now includes YouTube)
2. [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (you get to pick one)

* ***Personally Identifiable Information***: This includes information that reveals who you are in the offline world, including your real name, address, email address, phone number, age or school.
  + Does Google collect personally identifiable information?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - If so, what kinds?
  + Does Wikipedia collect personally identifiable information?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - If so, what kinds?
  + Does the site you selected collect personally identifiable information?\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - If so, what kinds?
* ***Cookies***: Cookies are small computer text files places in your computer by the sites you visit. These files contain numbers to identify your computer. Cookies can also identify you by any personally identifiable information you have given to the site. A cookie records the date and time you visited the site and how long you stayed. The next time you return, the site can present content and ads designed just for you. Many privacy policies include information about the sites’ cookies.
  + Does Google use cookies? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - What does it say about cookies?
  + Does Wikipedia use cookies? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - What does it say about cookies?
  + Does your site use cookies? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - What does it say about cookies?
* ***Third Party***: The word “party” is a legal term for an individual or a company. You (the visitor to the site) are the first party. The site owner is the second party. Any other person or company is the third party. Most people don’t mind sharing information about themselves with site owners to get better service. However, many people DO NOT want their information passed on to a third party without their knowledge. A site’s privacy policy should tell you if the owner shares your information with third parties.
  + Does Google share information with third parties? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - What does it say about third parties?
  + Does Wikipedia share information with third parties? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - What does it say about third parties?
  + Does your site share information with third parties? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - What does it say about third parties?
* ***Privacy Options***: Many sites give you choices about what they do with the information they collect about you. For example, you can tell the site they are not allowed to share their information about you with a third party.
  + Does Google offer privacy options? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - What are the privacy options?
  + Does Wikipedia offer privacy options? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - What are the privacy options?
  + Does your site offer privacy options? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    - What are the privacy options?